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upon them. But when the position becomes easy, that is, when some of the offices are shifted to our own buildings, we will relax the control."

Stage of progress of each of the Malampuzha and the Lower Bhavani Projects.

* 59 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state— 2-40 p.m.

(*a*) the stage of progress of each of the Malampuzha and the Lower Bhavani Projects showing the estimate and the cost incurred so far;

(*b*) the steps taken to provide Hydro-Electric Power in the above dams;

(*c*) the plans drawn up for utilization of the quarters and other buildings put up near the dam sites; and

(*d*) the proposals made or under consideration for the setting up of new industries in the above areas?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

" (*b*) Penstock pipes for future development of power have been installed in the Lower Bhavani Dam, and are being installed in the Malampuzha Dam. Power schemes will be formulated later, but the amount of firm power available will not be appreciable.

" (*c*) & (*d*) The whole matter is under consideration."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know, Sir, if these projects have been worked out on the principle that they should pay themselves, and what is the acreage the projects are expected to irrigate? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I do not know whether the projects will pay themselves. As regards the acreage the projects are expected to irrigate, the Lower Bhavani Project is expected to supply water to an extent of 2·07 lakhs of acres of land in Gobichettipalayam, Bhavani, Erode and Dharapuram taluks of Coimbatore district and Karur taluk of Tiruchirappalli district. Of these, 10,000 acres will be cultivated with paddy and the balance will be cultivated equally with cotton and other dry crops. As regards the Malampuzha project, it will stabilise the existing precarious cultivation on 40,000 acres of double crop land and will also enable new cultivation on 5,800 acres of dry lands, a second crop on 7,100 acres of single crop land and a third crop on 11,350 acres of double crop land. The additional food production is expected to be about 15,000 tons per annum."

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 95 infra.

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" With reference to answers to clauses (*c*) and (*d*), may I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to shift any of the public offices to these project areas? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" No public office is sought to be shifted there. We are thinking of starting some technological and industrial schools there. A Cabinet Sub-Committee has been formed to go into this question."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" What steps have been taken, Sir, for the absorption of the large labour force that was employed there for the execution of these schemes? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is a general matter which I cannot say. They have got to find some employment."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, with reference to Malampuzha Project, may I know, whether the Palghat Municipal Water-supply scheme has been provided for under the main scheme? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Provision has been made to supply water to the municipality. But then there is the question of payment and other things. This subject belongs to my Hon. Colleague. The question may be addressed to him."

Appointment of an Expert Committee to scrutinize the estimates prepared by the Public Works Department.

* 60 *Q.*—SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the remarks made by the ex-Chief Minister Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar on the floor of the House on 19th March 1952 during general discussion of the Budget for the year 1952–53 regarding the necessity of appointing an Expert Committee to scrutinize the estimates prepared by the Public Works Department;

(*b*) whether any step has been taken in the direction;

(*c*) whether the lump-sum contract system which was in vogue during 1927 still continues; and

(*d*) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to state the reasons for not adopting the system as one among the other systems?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) The Government are aware of it, Sir.

" (*b*) Estimates for P.W.D. works are prepared with reference to a schedule of rates carefully worked out by Superintending Engineers on the basis of tenders accepted for works in the division during the preceding twelve months. The schedule is also modified with reference to changes in rates and prices.